

Seattle City Council

Neighborhoods, Arts, & Civil Rights Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 2 PM, December 9, 2003

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Christopher J. Jarmick**

Today's Words' Worth poet is **Murray Gordon**

MURRAY GORDON: Born in Scranton, Pa. Anthracite coal. Smoldering slag heaps. To Philly. Saw swastikas flying from rowhouses pre-Pearl Harbor. To the Beat Generation. Poetry. Jazz. To crossing the country. To Seattle. To write. Right here. Right now.

Published in Poets West, Community Connection, Poets Table Anthology, Point No Point, Raven Chronicles, Sakya Chronicles, and Sakya News. Guest poetry lecturer at Ingram High School. Featured reader at Seattle Public Libraries and many other Northwest locations.

Lamentations -- The Prophet Jeremiah Gives the Seattle Weather Report

by Murray Gordon

How does the city lie sodden
That was full of life
How is she become damp
And now languishes

The torrents have turned her to suffering
The early morning air is too wet
For her birds to sing
Her dwellings leak
Her babies grow gills
And the people are drenched

No relief is in sight
The showers are unending
Every sound is a splash
And all ambition is diluted

High tides swamp her streets

The roads become rivers
Fungi and moss abound
Clothes mildew on the body
Rivulets pour off of the skin

The sky is gray and leaden
The earth turns into swamps
Natural law is flaunted
Graven images of Goretex are worshipped
And the cost of umbrellas drains the city's coffers

O Sun we have sinned during your time
And blasphemed your name
And now we suffer

We pray for you O Sun when dry air
Will issue from the heavens
When thoughts will be encased in blue skies

Turn to us O Sun and we shall be dry
Renew our tans as of old
You cannot have rejected us so
To punish us this much

Turn to us O Sun and we shall be dry
Renew our tans as of old

-- *END* --